

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ROME 10932 051735Z

ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-07 MED-03 PA-02 PRS-01

USIA-15 SCA-01 /048 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5672

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

UNCLAS ROME 10932

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, IT

SUBJECT: TOXICITY FROM IMPORTED FROZEN FISH CAUSES THREE DEATHS
IN ITALY

DEPT PASS FDA AND NIH

COPENHAGEN FOR REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE

THREE PERSONS (ONE ITALIAN AND TWO BELGIANS) DIED AND 16 ARE
HOSPITALIZED AFTER HAVING EATEN ANGLER FISH (LPHIS PISCATORIUS)
IMPORTED FROZEN FROM FORMOSA. THE DEATHS OCCURRED IN ROME AND
VENICE AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE SEIZED 700 KILOS OF THE
SUSPECTED FISH. ANALYSIS CONDUCTED BY PROVINCIAL HEALTH
LABORATORIES AND CURRENTLY BEING CHECKED BY THE NATIONAL
INSTITUTE OF HEALTH REVEALED THE PRESENCE IN THE FISH OF A
NEUROTOXINE PRODUCED BY THE FISH AFTER INGESTION OF DINOFLAGELLATA
MICROORGANISMS. THE FIRM PANAPESCAOF PISTOIA (TUSCANY) WHICH
IMPORTED THE FISH AND THE FIRM SURGITALIA OF TIVOLI NEAR ROME
WHICH DISTRIBUTED IT, BOTH STATE THAT THE POISONOUS FISH ARE
FROM A SHIPMENT RECEIVED AND DISTRIBUTED LAST JANUARY.

SYMPTOMS EXPERIENCED BY PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THIS POISON ARE:
TICKLISH LIPS, THEN A STATE OF EUPHORIA FOLLOWED BY PROGRESSIVE
PARALYSIS OF LIMBS AND CARDIAC ARREST. APPARENTLY OUTBREAKS
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OF THIS TYPE OF POISONING HAVE BEEN REGISTERED SINCE 1926 AND
HAVE OCCURRED IN JAPAN, THE USA, CHINA AND THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
AND ARE CAUSED BY ABNORMAL REPRODUCTION OF DINOFLAGELLATA FAVORED
BY WARM SEAS. AUTHORITIES STATE THAT THE SITUATION IN ITALY
IS UNDER CONTROL, BUT AS A PRECAUTION GOI ORDERED THE SEIZURE
OF SHIPMENTS FROM FORMOSA OF FROZEN SMOOTH-HOUND FISH
(MUSTELUS MUSTELUS) AS WELL.GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Sent Date: 05-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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